

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



October 17, 1997

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-64-97

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

REASON FOR TRANSMITTAL

- ☐ State Law Change
- ☐ Federal Law Change
- ☐ Court Order or Settlement Agreement
- ☐ Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- ☒ Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: UNVERIFIED SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS IN THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

This is to notify County Welfare Departments (CWDs) about a recent communication received from the Food and Consumer Service about Unverified Social Security Numbers (SSNs). Although there has been no specific indication of related problems in any California county, this notice is being sent as a reminder to all counties to resolve discrepancies involving unverified SSNs in a timely manner.

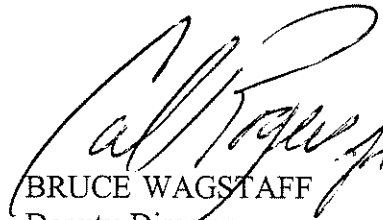
According to current regulations, an applicant or recipient household shall provide the CWD with the SSN of each household member or shall provide verification of application for a SSN prior to certification.

If an individual indicates he/she does not have a SSN, or is otherwise unable to provide one, the household member shall complete the application for SSNs provided by the CWD and apply directly to the Social Security Administration (SSA). Once that household member has applied for a SSN and is otherwise eligible, that member is entitled to participate in the Food Stamp Program. Participation may continue for said individual pending his/her submittal of verification to the CWD of the SSN issuance. Further, if the individual has applied for a SSN and can show good cause why his/her application for a SSN has not been processed in a timely manner, that household member is allowed to participate for one month in addition to the month of application. Thereafter, good cause shall be shown monthly in order for that individual to continue to participate.

In accordance with Manual Section (M.S.) 63-404.6, CWDs are required to submit SSNs through the Income and Eligibility Verification System (IEVS) to SSA for verification. However, food stamp benefits shall not be delayed to an otherwise eligible household because a SSN has not been verified.

For IEVS information received from SSA, which the CWD considers questionable, the information must be independently verified. The CWD shall verify the information by notifying the recipient in writing of the information received requesting that the recipient respond within ten days. If the household fails or refuses to respond to the notification, the CWD shall send a Notice of Action terminating the household's participation in accordance with M.S. 63-504.26. If food stamp benefits are overissued to a household because it submitted an incorrect SSN for a household member, a claim against the household must be established retroactive to the date of application. If the incorrect SSN does not result in an overissuance and thus there is no dollar loss to the Food Stamp Program, then a claim is not established. If it appears that the household intentionally gave the incorrect information, the case must be referred for investigation and, if appropriate, referred to the District Attorney for criminal prosecution or to the California Department of Social Services for an Administrative Disqualification hearing in accordance with M.S. 20-300.

If you have any questions, please call Maria Tarango of the Food Stamp Program Bureau, Policy Implementation Unit at (916) 654-1883. For questions regarding Fraud issues, please contact Judy Hale at (916) 445-0031.



BRUCE WAGSTAFF
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division

c: CWDA